

Appl. No.: 10/612,343
Amdt. dated 11/18/2009
Reply to Office Action of 08/18/2009

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus; comprising a controller configured to:
~~a requesting unit configured to request that in a first entity, including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of said amount of money be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion; and a controller configured to control an allocation of said reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed by said at least one user device in a session,~~
wherein the allocation is controlled after the request is made, wherein the apparatus is separate from said first entity; and said at least one user device, and wherein the controller is configured to allocate said reserved portion between said plurality of services as required, without dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts comprises dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of equal parts.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to allocate said reserved portion dynamically.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein the controller is further configured to allocate said reserved portion based on at least one of, service activity, number of services, and a unit cost of said plurality of services.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising a monitor wherein the controller is further configured to monitor how much of said reserved portion has been used.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ~~monitor controller is further configured to monitor said reserved amount by periodically determining how much of said reserved portion each of said plurality of services have used to provide a plurality of values and summing the plurality of values.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ~~monitor controller is further configured to monitor how much of said reserved portion has been used by using information defining a cost of said plurality of services.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said information comprises a cost for one of a data or time unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said reserved portion is used up or has been at least partially used up a further portion of said amount of money is reservable.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information store comprises one of, a monetary value, a data amount representative of said amount of money, a time representative of said amount of money, and an amount of a service access parameter.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of services comprises an internet service.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of entities.

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17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said plurality of entities comprises at least one of a traffic analyzer and a credit controller.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a credit controller.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a storage configured to store information relating to a cost of said plurality of services.
21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising a controller configured to:
~~a requesting unit configured to request~~ reservation of a portion of an amount of money defined by information stored at a first entity;
~~a receiver configured to receive from said first entity~~ information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount;
~~a converter configured to convert information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount; and~~
~~a controller configured to control an allocation of said monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device.~~
- 22 – 23 (Cancelled)
24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first form is one of a cost for a unit amount or a payment parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.
25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said payment parameter is data volume, time, or service parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.
- 26 – 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said information in said first form comprises said unit amount.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said ~~converter controller~~ is further configured to convert said unit amount to a corresponding monetary amount to provide said second form.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, which is configured to operate in accordance with a remote authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) protocol.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first form comprises at least one of time, data volume, or service access parameter.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein said service access parameter comprises at least one of number of clicks or number of accesses.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said second form comprises monetary value, number of clicks and number of accesses.

35. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

~~requesting a first entity, the first entity storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, for a portion of said amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity; at a controller separate from said first entity and at least one user device, the first entity storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device; and~~

~~controlling at said controller an allocation of said reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed in a session after the requesting to the first entity, wherein the controlling comprises allocating said reserved portion between said plurality of services as required, without dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services.~~

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
requesting a reservation of a portion of an amount of money defined for at least one user device by stored information;
receiving, at a controller configured to allocate a reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously, information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount; and
converting information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount, and then allocating said monetary amount between said plurality of services.

38 – 47 (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 76, wherein said dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts comprises dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of equal parts.

49 – 50 (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising allocating said reserved portion dynamically.

52. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 76, wherein said reserved portion is allocated based on at least one of, service activity, number of services, and a unit cost of said plurality of services.

53. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising monitoring how much of said reserved portion has been used.

54. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 53, comprising monitoring said reserved amount by periodically determining how much of said reserved portion each of said plurality of services have used to provide a plurality of values and summing the plurality of values.

55. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 53, comprising monitoring how much of said reserved portion has been used by using information defining a cost of said plurality of services.

56. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said information comprises a cost for one of a data or time unit.

57. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising reserving a further portion of said amount of money when said reserved portion is used up or has been at least partially used up.

58. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said information store comprises one of, a monetary value, a data amount representative of said amount of money, a time representative of said amount of money, and an amount of a service access parameter.

59. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein at least one of said plurality of services comprises an internet service.

60. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said controller comprises a plurality of entities.

61. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 60, wherein said plurality of entities comprises at least one of a traffic analyzer and a credit controller.

62. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said controller comprises a credit controller.

63. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said first form is one of a cost for a unit amount or a payment parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.

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64. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 63, wherein said payment parameter is data volume, time, or service parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.

65. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 63, wherein said information in said first form comprises said unit amount.

66. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 65, comprising converting said unit amount to a corresponding monetary amount to provide said second form.

67. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, comprising operating said controller in accordance with a remote authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) protocol.

68. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said first form comprises at least one of time, data volume, or service access parameter.

69. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 68, wherein said service access parameter comprises at least one of number of clicks or number of accesses.

70. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said second form comprises monetary value, number of clicks and number of accesses.

71. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for requesting, at a controller, that in a first entity including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of said amount of money to be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion; and
means for, after the request is made, allocating said reserved portion between a plurality of services as required, without dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services;
wherein said plurality of services is a plurality of services to be accessed by said at least one user device in a session,

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and wherein the controller is separate to said first entity and said at least one user device.

72. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for requesting reservation of a portion of an amount ~~of an amount~~ of money defined by information stored at a first entity;
means for receiving from said first entity information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount;
means for converting information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount; and
means for controlling an allocation of said monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device.

73 – 74 (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising a controller configured to:
~~a requesting unit configured to request that in a first entity, including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of said amount of money be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion; and~~
~~a controller configured to, after the request is made, divide said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services, and reallocate a remainder of said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion; and~~
wherein the apparatus is separate from said first entity.

76. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
requesting a first entity, the first entity storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, for a portion of said amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity, at a controller separate from said first entity and at least one user device; and

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after said requesting, dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services, and reallocating a remainder of said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion.